

Arms: arsenal for peace?

Professors condemn 'outgunning' defense policies

By Frank Shaw
Of the Emerald

"We're trying to deter nuclear war by building nuclear weapons and as we advance the weapons become more destabilizing instead of less," said Steve Johnson, a sociology professor at a convocation on nuclear war Thursday.

Johnson was one of five professors who served as panelists responding to a videotaped speech of retired Admiral Noel Gaylor's plan to prevent nuclear war. The group also answered questions from the audience.

Dave Soper, a physics professor, opened the discussion by reading from a speech by Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger defining deterrence and saying the United States must never be outgunned by the Soviet Union.

"It's not as if we've fallen behind," Johnson said.

The convocation was sponsored by a faculty committee called the Organizing Committee for Symposia on Nuclear Arms Control.

One question from the audience concerned the death of Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev and its possible effects on the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.

Allan Winkler, a history professor, said he thought there would be "no change in the immediate future."

Soper agreed, saying the foreign policy of the Soviet Union would be uncertain for a number of years.

All of the panelists agreed there were potentially good effects from a unilateral disarmament, but while Soper said it would be safer not to have the MX or any other land-based missile, he claimed that just getting rid of all the missiles would be "scary."

Johnson said the U.S. could go quite a ways in disarmament without hurting their defense and in doing so would put a lot of political pressure on the Soviet Union to do the same.

In a discussion concerning the no first-strike pledge made by the Soviet Union and rejected by the United States, Johnson said it would be a pledge of faith, but indicated he didn't think it would solve the problem.

Soper agreed and said at the present time the United States was planning on using nuclear weapons on the battlefield in the event of a Soviet invasion of Europe. He said a better defense might be to increase the number of conventional weapons and troops in Europe.

Johnson disagreed, saying "It's really war we want to stop." He also thought a build-up of



Photo by David Kao

Professors Steve Johnson, Dave Soper and Allan Winkler, were among five panelists to discuss nuclear war and defense policy at a faculty committee sponsored convocation.

conventional forces in Europe would dramatically increase the chance of nuclear war.

Winkler said that even though it would be only a symbolic gesture, the United States would have everything to gain and nothing to lose by a no-first-strike agreement.

Answering a question concerning the problem of the development of nuclear weapons by Third World countries, Johnson said the biggest threat to international peace would be a misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Gaylor called the possibility of a "shield" against attack by intercontinental Ballistics Missiles an illusion.

Responding to a question from the audience, Winkler agreed that such a defense was impossible and that the military minds thought in different terms when they spoke of a "successful" defense.

"Military planners don't care so much about populations as they do about military installations," Winkler said.

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Glad rags show for the abused

A benefit fashion show for Womenspace — an organization that shelters battered women and children — will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Valley River Inn.

"Holiday Magic," the evening of fall fashions modeled by women and men, will also feature a dinner dance and a social hour.

Soroptimist International of Eugene, which is sponsoring the event, hopes to earn the second \$5,000 payment of \$10,000 the group pledged to Womenspace last year, says Anne Bradley, chairman of the Soroptimist advertising committee.

The pledge money helps Womenspace maintain service levels, says Margaret Patton, of Womenspace.

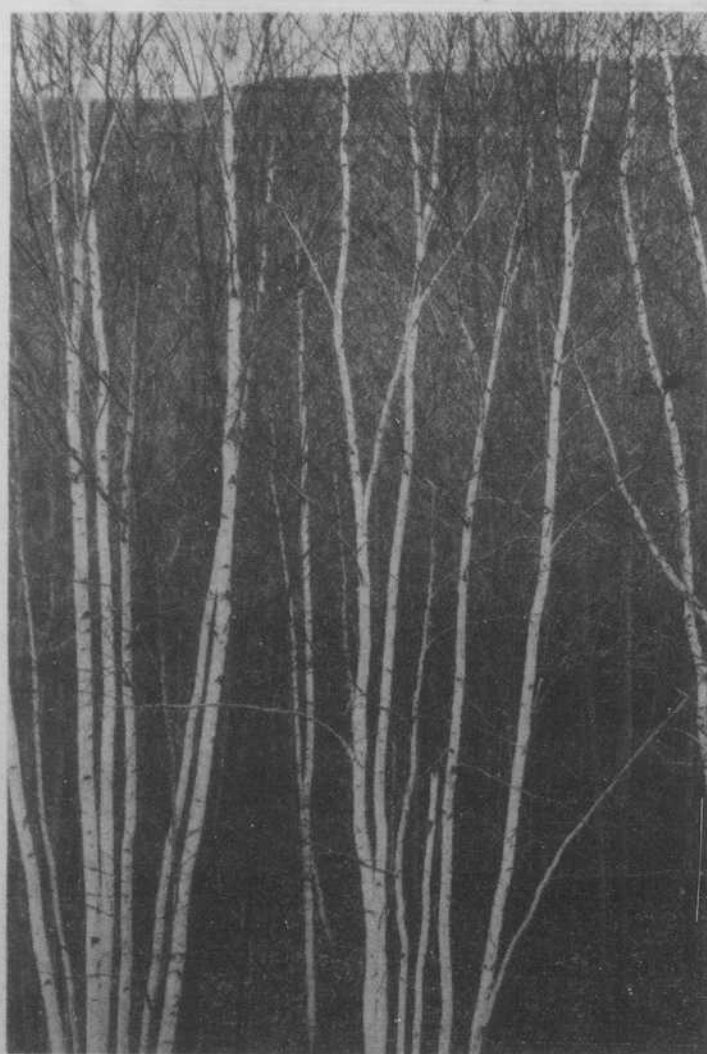
"There has been an increase in demand for our services over the past two years," she says.

Soroptimist International members are working hard to support Womenspace, says Bradley, a reporter for television station KEZI. The group of professional women is a "really community-oriented group," she says.

Tickets to the fashion show are \$20. For reservations, contact Laura Weber at 334-8131.

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November



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